

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03227 211342Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 211310Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3227

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SW, CU
SUBJECT: SWEDISH-CUBAN RELATIONS

REF: HAVANA 1985

1. DURING CONVERSATION BETWEEN POLCOUNS AND MFA NORTH AMERICAN DESK OFFICER ON AUGUST 18, LATTER REFERRED TO "SOURING" OF SWEDISH-CUBAN RELATIONS WHICH, UNTIL 1976, WERE CONSIDERED EXCELLENT. SOURCE SAID DETERIORATION BEGAN WITH (A) THE VICTORY OF THE NON-SOCIALISTS IN THE 1976 ELECTIONS AND THE INDEFINITE "POSTPONEMENT" OF A CASTRO VISIT TO STOCKHOLM EXTENDED BY FORMER PM PALME; (B) HEIGHTENED WITH THE RIKSDAG DECISION TWO YEARS AGO TO PHASE OUT SWEDISH ASSISTANCE TO HAVANA BY 1980 (REFTEL); (C) ACCELERATED OVER INCREASED CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA; AND (D) QUICKENED FURTHER IN APRIL 1977 WHEN FORMER CUBAN AMBASSADOR OSCAR EMILIO ALCALDE VALLS OBJECTED STRENUOUSLY TO THE FORCED RETURN TO CUBA OF TWO LATIN AMERICANS IMPLICATED IN TERRORIST PLOT TO KIDNAP FORMER MINISTER TO IMMIGRATION ANNA GRETA LEIJON.

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2. MFA SOURCE CONTINUED THAT WORSENING OF RELATIONS IS LIKELY TO BE REFLECTED IN INCREASED DIFFICULTIES FOR SWEDISH MEDIA AND BUSINESS VISITS TO CUBA. HE DESCRIBED, ON STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, CASE LAST SPRING OF SVENSKA DAGBLADET FEATURE WRITER INGEMAR LINDMARKER (FORMER PRESS COUNSELOR AT SWEDISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON).

LINDMARKER HAD MADE EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR AN EXTENDED VISIT TO CUBA BUT AT LAST MOMENT CUBANS REFUSED HIM A VISA. SOURCE SAID HE DOUBTED FACT THAT SVENSKA DAGBLADET IS CONSERVATIVE POLITICALLY OR THAT LINDMARKER IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS PRO-WEST HAD MUCH TO DO WITH CUBAN DECISION. TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO, SOURCE MAINTAINED, ANY SWEDISH JOURNALIST WOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOMED IN HAVANA. SOURCE ADMITTED THAT, MOST PROBABLY, SDP LEADER OLOF PALME AND OTHER SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PROBABLY WOULD HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE WITH CUBAN VISAS. DESPITE PALME'S RECENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA/ERITREA, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' PARTY TIES WITH HAVANA ARE STILL INTACT.

3. SOURCE NOTED THAT CUBANS HAVE FAILED THUS FAR TO DESIGNATE NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN TO REPLACE ALCALDE VALLS WHO DEPARTED STOCKHOLM LAST MARCH.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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